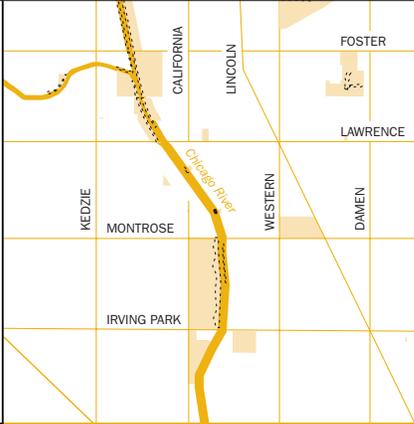


SUNKEN GARDENS

Sunken Gardens is a tiny park with benches and a clump of ornamental perennials on the edges of mowed grass. A guard rail at the top of a steep bank separates the park from the river.

Unfortunately, nothing remains of the sunken lawn. By the 1950s, suffering from vandals and neglect, the site had lost all the original garden features. Today it's used only for passive recreation. But Sunken Garden's location on the Chicago River makes it a link in one of Chicago's most important greenways.

Though today the park is at the same elevation as the rest of the Ravenswood neighborhood, this wasn't always the case. In 1918, one year after it was acquired by the Ravenswood Manor Park District, the site was "transformed into a lovely garden with a central sunken lawn edged by a walk; three trellis-like pergolas; ornamental urns; and lush shrubbery and floral plantings." (Chicago Park District web site.)



Sunken Gardens



ADDRESS 4500 N Virginia Ave
OWNER Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
ACREAGE 0.04

HABITATS
1 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS From Wilson Avenue, go south on Rockwell Avenue. Turn right (west) on Windsor, then left (south) on Virginia Avenue. Site is on the corner of Virginia and Sunnyside.

